514

FORMS

OF THE

ROYAL BLUE ORDER

TO BE OBSERVED IN PRIVATE LODGES

OF THE

LOYAL ORANGE INSTITUTION

OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

TORONTO:

BRO. J. ROSS ROBERTSON, PRINTER TO THE GRAND LODGE.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH PUBLISHING HOUSE.

1869.

MASSEY COLLEGE LIBRARY

Withdrawn Apr/92

RB167,367

ROYAL BLUE ORDER.

In this (as in the other Degrees,) no business connected with the affairs of the Order can be transacted, except in Open Lodge, and guarded by a Tyler; and with not less than a quorum.

There shall be two Tylers in this Order—one, whose post shall be outside, and the other inside the Lodge-Room door.

No member shall be admitted without the appropriate decoration of the Degree.

The duty of the Inside Tyler shall be to put the Test to all who (after having previously given the Annual to the Outside Tyler,) enter the room after the Lodge is opened.

The Tylers shall in all cases be examined by the Master, to see if they are properly qualified to receive or reject those applying for admission.

The Officers and Brethren being assembled, and having taken their seats, and the Tylers at their posts, the Test (division of the Annual and the Entrance Pass Word) shall be put to them by the Secretary on the Right, and the Treasurer on the left hand, or by two of the Brethren appointed by the Master.) Having tested the Brethren they shall report to the Deputy Master, who shall rise and say to the Master,—"Worshipful—all present are true members of the Order."

The Brethren shall then, at a call from the Master, all rise, and in the proper position, stand (strictly silent) while the Chaplain, Master, or Brother appointed, proceeds to open the Lodge, by reading the following portions of Scripture:

I shall see Him, but not now. I shall behold Him, but not nigh; there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall arise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Gath.—*Num.*, *c.* xxiv, *v.* 17.

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying: Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the border a ribbon of Blue. That ye may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy unto your God. I am the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God; I am the Lord your God.

Then shall the Chaplain, Master, or Brother appointed, read the following prayer:

O, ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God! who art the strength of them who put their trust in Thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, look upon the hearty desires of Thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of Thy Majesty to be our defence against all our enemies. Enable us to love and serve Thee as we ought. Render us worthy to inherit the rest prepared for all them that fear and love Thee. Teach us to watch and prepare for the coming of the day of judgment, so that we may worthily enter into Thy kingdom, as Stars of Glory in the House of Israel. Grant these, and all other mercies which Thou seest we stand in need of, for the sake of Thy dear Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ.—*Amen.*

The Master shall then say:

I now declare this Royal Blue Lodge opened in due form, strictly prohibiting any language or conduct that may tend to disturb the harmony of the Brethren.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

The Members then resume their seats, and the business of the Lodge shall proceed in the following order:

The Lecture to be repeated.

Minutes of former Meeting read.

Members to be advanced.

Public business connected with the principles, honour or prosperity of the Institution discussed.

Lecture repeated.

Lodge closed with Prayer.

RITUAL OF INTRODUCTION.

The preparation of the Candidate is to take place in the ante-room, as follows :—He is to be stripped of his coat and vest, and his left arm bared to the shoulder, and a Blue Ribbon tied round that arm above the elbow. All being ready, the Candidate shall be led to the Lodge-Room door, when a sudden-alarm shall be made by the Sponsors, and they shall knock.

Master.—What alarm is there ; what strangers are at our gates ?

Tyler.—

(Opening the door and communicating with those without,) asks—

What strangers are there ?

Sponsors.—Travellers from the East, hither led by a strange appearance in the Heavens, and asking that the mystery may be explained to them.

Tyler—

Repeats this announcement to the Master.

Master.—If they have their guides and sureties, let them enter.

The door is then opened, and the Candidate (having the Bible in his hand,) shall be introduced between his two Sponsors, each bearing in his hand an Orange Rod, decorated with Blue Ribbon, and one carrying also the Bible, the Blue Book of the Lodge, with the Obligation thereon, and open, and the other an inkstand : he shall then be conducted to the side of the room, and then East, towards the Deputy-Master, before whom shall be burning one *bright* light ; and before the Master there shall be placed Eleven . . . . . in a semi-circle, and also one . placed in the centre of the circle. The eleven . . . . . are not to be lit until the Candidate has reached the Deputy-Master ; the one in the centre is not to be lighted.

The Chaplain, or Master, shall then proceed as follows :

"Now, when Jesus was born in Bethleham of Judea, in the days of Herod the King, behold there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, saying where is he that is born King of the Jews ? for we have seen his Star in the East, and are come to worship him. And lo ! the Star which they saw in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the Star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy, and when they were come into the house, they saw the young child, and fell down and worshipped

him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." *Matt., c.* ii., *v.* 1, 2, 9, 10, 11.

Here the Candidate pays his Initiation Fee.

The Candidate shall then subscribe his name in the Lodge Book, the Deputy-Master saying to him:

"Thou hast inscribed thy name amongst the faithful, go and prove thy faith still farther."

The Candidate shall then be led to the Master.

Master.—What carry ye in your hands?

Sponsors.—The Word of God.

Master.—Do you believe that he has strictly conformed to the Rules and Regulations of the orders he has heretofore received in our Association?

Sponsors.—We do.

Master.—(Addressing the Candidate)—Is it your desire and humble petition to be advanced to the Degree of Royal Blue?

Candidate.—It is.

Master.—Friend, kneel down.

The Candidate kneels, (his hands on the Bible,) The Chaplain or Master, shall say:

Let us Pray.

All kneeling.

O, LORD GOD, Judge of the World, who hath commanded that creation should come forth to judgment, we entreat Thee to grant us life grace, and pardon. Thou, O Lord, holdest forth the lamp of righteousness for good to mankind, and to Thy honour and Glory nations are made righteous. Thou inscribest our good deeds in the Book of Life, and Thy mercy is shown forth in our lives. As the morning star bringeth joy to the awakening world, so Thou, O Lord, by Thy Son our Redeemer, awakened in the souls of Thy servants joy and everlasting life.—*Amen.*

Here the Obligation shall be administered by the Master.

ROYAL BLUE OBLIGATION.

I, A. B., do solemnly and voluntarily swear, that I will never disclose, either in whole or in part, the signs, mysteries, or symbols of the order of the Royal Blue, except I shall be duly authorized to communicate them by the proper authorities of this Institution.—So help me God.

Here invest the Candidate with the Orange collar, with rosettes of Purple and Blue.

The Candidate shall then rise up, and the Chaplain or Master shall read :

O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy ; and gather them out of the lands from the East and from the West, from the North and from the South.—*Psalm* 107.

I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within Thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together.—*Psalm* 122.

Behold, bless ye the Lord all ye servants of the Lord, which by night stand in the house of the Lord. Litt up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless ye the Lord. The Lord, that made Heaven and Earth, bless thee out of Sion.—*Psalm* 134.

The Signs, Passwords, and Mysteries of the Order shall then be communicated to the new Blue Brother, after which the Master shall deliver the following Charge :

BROTHER,

I congratulate you upon your admission to this Order, because it calls upon you for the exercise of greater activity and a nobler zeal. It is to prove to you a beacon of light ; to keep your passions and prejudices under proper subjection.

The bearing of the Order is to bring your mind to the consideration of eternity. It is to prove to you by the Star in the East, the course of which was arrested over Bethlehem, how small beginnings can, by the decree of an all-wise Providence, have great and glorious terminations. It is to teach you the duty of being satisfied with your lot, when you remember your Saviour's nativity, and his high destination. Reflect that, however humble your lot, however unpolished your habits, by a constant life of virtue and faith, by industrious and zealous habits, you may arrive at as near a state of perfection as sinful man can expect to attain.

It now becomes your duty, narrowly to watch your Brethren. You are mildly to correct their errors, and to remonstrate with them upon their approach to any evil action, and thus prove to them the worth and value of your exalted station. You must at all times exert yourself to keep our glorious institution from harm, and not to allow the precincts of the Star to be desecrated. By your submis-

sion to your seniors, you will convince your inferiors of their duty to do likewise; and although you are particularly to see the sufferings and wants of your brethren relieved, yet, by the virtue of that brilliant guide, which you have assumed, you must feel that your benevolence should be universal. Lastly you are to observe, with scrupulous exactitude, the Secrecy of the Degree just conferred; and you are to absent yourself from any Lodge which does not faithfully carry out the principles we teach. By doing all of which, you will prove that our confidence has not been misplaced.

The Chaplain, Master, or Brother appointed, shall then say:

Moreover, the Lord spake again unto Ahaz, saying, ask thee a sign of the Lord thy God, ask it either in the depth, or in the height above. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord. And he said, hear ye now, O house of David, is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name *Immanuel.—Isaiah, c.* vii., *v.* 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause his face to shine upon us. That Thy name may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise Thee. O, let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for Thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon the earth. Let the people praise Thee, O God: let all the people praise Thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase, and God, even our own God shall bless us. God shall bless us. and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.—*Psalm* 67.

In closing the Lodge, the Brethren shall stand in the same position as in opening the Lodge, while the Chaplain, Master, or Brother appointed, shall say the Lord's Prayer:

OUR FATHER, which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.—*Amen.*

The Master shall then say:

I now declare this Royal Blue Lodge closed in due form.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.